

STUDIED SUICIDE METHODS, THIRTY POLICEMAN.

Aged Bachelor, Dreading Blindness, Attends to Business, but Amasses Fortune.

NEW YORK, Feb. 12.—Dreading blindness, and grieving because he could no longer read and enjoy his favorite German classics, Carl Zetsek, an eccentric bachelor, seventy-one years old, yesterday put an end to his life by gas asphyxiation at his home, No. 33 Hendrix street. Zetsek decided to die by gas after a long and careful study of suicide statistics. He had made elaborate preparations for the event, dining with some friends the night before, and dressing himself in his best clothes before he lay in the bed and turned on the gas, which caused a stuporous business career, retired several years ago. One year ago his right eye became so affected as to be all but blind and the strain, which the eye put on the other eye filled him with the fear that he would eventually go blind. He left a will by which his property is bequeathed to his brother in Germany, and a sister in Illinois. He requests that his body be cremated and the ashes scattered to the winds.

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GRIEF KILLS MOTHER.

Disappearance of Her Boy Causes the Death of Woman.

NEW YORK, Feb. 12.—Constant grieving over the disappearance two years ago of her twelve-year-old son, Joseph, caused the death yesterday of Mrs. West Fifty-goth at her home, No. 412 West Fifty-goth street.

The boy's mother was prostrated by the shock of the lad's disappearance and never recovered. Her husband, James McGowan, an inspector in the department of street cleaning, said yesterday that she steadily declined until her death. "Not long after she learned her son was gone for an hour apparently died her mind turned from her loss, and when she died last words were of her boy."

On October 1, 1903, a letter was received in this city purporting to have been written by Joseph. It said he was in Hoboken, where he had returned after spending a year in the West. The boy wrote that he was afraid to come home for fear he would meet his parents in a place he had never seen and sent a diagram showing the location of a bench where he would be found. Mr. McGowan, however, never received the letter.

NEW YORK, Feb. 12.—Policemen throughout the department were astonished to learn yesterday that there is one among them who, during the last eight years, has found time to attend both the police duties and to carry on a real estate business, through which he has amassed a fortune of \$122,250. Erastus G. Wolcott of the Oak street station.

He came to New York eight years ago from his home in Chicago, where he was \$40. In January, 1897, he was appointed to the police force. His first real estate transaction was made ten months later, when he borrowed \$5 from his landlady to make a first payment on some lots on Long Island. He confined himself, at Brooklyn and Long Island, to the purchase and sale of real estate, and today holds clear of all mortgages property valued on the tax books at \$122,250 from which he realizes an annual income of \$10,000.

Although the care of his real estate takes most of Wolcott's time off duty, he has no intention of leaving the police force, which he has held at least. He is thirty-seven years old, married and lives at No. 33 Rogers avenue, Brooklyn, in one of his own houses.

CIVIL SERVICE IN ISLE.

System Will Probably Apply to Many Positions in Porto Rico.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 12.—Civil Service Commissioner Cooley, who went to Porto Rico to co-operate with the insular authorities in the establishment of a general civil service system there, has returned to Washington. At the request of Gov. Wm. H. Taft, Cooley drafted a bill applying the civil service system to approximately 190 officers in the Porto Rican Legislature and Mr. Cooley believes it will be enacted into law.

TEA

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